

Paper No. 01192006



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

Fax Cover Sheet

Date: 10 Jan 2006

To: Robert Rines	From: JOHN PAK
Application/Control Number: 09/827,102	Art Unit: 1616
Fax No.:	Phone No.: (571)272-0620
Voice No.: 603-228-0121	Return Fax No.: (571)273-0620
Re:	CC:

☒ Urgent ☐ For Review ☒ For Comment ☐ For Reply ☐ Per Your Request

Comments:
Mr. Rines,

Please review the following proposal. Most of the changes are cosmetic/grammatical.

Substantive changes (in my opinion):

1) cancellation of claim 17 – I could not find any support from the originally filed disclosure (preliminary amendment did not count as original disclosure back you filed this case, if the preliminary amendment was not acknowledged in the oath/declaration). There is no mention of the GEL of polyacrylate being dispersed in that ratio/amount

2) It appears from your comments (page 6 of the 10/27/05 response, second paragraph) that you thought you amended claim 9 like you amended claim 1. Not so. Claim 9 was not amended to recite the 45-1000 micron size feature. I put that in, as it is needed to overcome the prior art.

Please review and let me know if you approve. I reserve the opportunity to correct for any other minor spelling or grammatical errors. Thank you.

Number of pages 4 including this page

STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

This facsimile transmission is an Official U.S. Government document which may contain information which is privileged and confidential. It is intended only for use of the recipient named above. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution or copying of this document is strictly prohibited. If this document is received in error, you are requested to immediately notify the sender at the above indicated telephone number and return the entire document in an envelope addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450

Summary - Interview - PART OF


Application/Control Number: 09/827,102
Art Unit: 1616

PART OF Interview Summary

Page 2

Claims 1-17 and 39-41 are pending in this application.

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

 Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Rines on (NOT yet)

Cancel claim 17.

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A water-releasing gel for use with plant material, obtained from a polyacrylate polymer powder having a size distribution of 45 to 1,000 microns, wherein a sufficient quantity of said polyacrylate polymer powder is gelled in an aqueous plant nutrient solution and the gel contains entrapped water-insoluble polyacrylate locked as a deposit therein.

Claim 2. (Currently amended) A water-releasing gel for use with plant material comprising a sufficient quantity of a polyacrylate polymer powder gelled in an aqueous solution of plant nutrient and zeolite crystals, wherein the gel contains entrapped water-insoluble polyacrylate and zeolite crystals locked as deposits therein.

Claim 3. (Currently amended) The gel of claim 1 wherein the plant nutrient solution is selected from the group consisting of plant-derived extracts and water-based chemical nutrients.

PART OF
Page 3
Interview
Summary

Claim 9. (Currently amended) A method of making a water-releasing gel for use with plant material, which comprises:

- producing an aqueous plant nutrient solution; and
- adding a sufficient quantity of polyacrylate polymer powder having a size distribution of 45 to 1,000 microns to the aqueous plant nutrient solution to obtain a gel with water-insoluble polyacrylate entrapped as a deposit locked therein.

Claim 10. (Currently amended) A method of making a water-releasing gel for use with plant material, which comprises:

- producing an aqueous solution comprising plant nutrient and zeolite crystals; and
- adding a sufficient quantity of polyacrylate polymer powder having a size distribution of 45 to 1,000 microns to said aqueous solution to obtain a gel with water-insoluble polyacrylate and zeolite crystals entrapped as deposits locked therein.

Claim 12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 9 wherein the plant nutrient solution is selected from the group consisting of plant-derived extracts and water-based chemical nutrients.

Claim 16. (Currently amended). A method of making a water-releasing gel for use with plant material, that comprises:

- producing an aqueous plant nutrient solution;
- dispersing zeolite crystals in said solution to absorb the nutrients; and

Application/Control Number: 09/827,102

Art Unit: 1616

PART OF
INTERVIEW
SUMMARY

Page 4

adding polyacrylate polymer powder to the solution to create a gel with the zeolite crystals absorbed therein.

Claim 40. (Currently amended) The method of making a water-releasing gel of claim 9, wherein the gel has the appearance of ice crystals.

Claim 41. (Currently amended) The method of making a water-releasing gel of claim 10, wherein the gel has the appearance of ice crystals.